

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
BELMONT CITYWIDE LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION PROJECT

1. What kind of streetlights does the City currently have?

The City currently uses High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights. Though they are the most common streetlight technology in most cities across the country, HPS streetlights are not very energy efficient, cast an orange light under which it is difficult to see color, and tend to produce light that is less than optimal quality.

2. What are LED streetlights?

Light Emitting Diodes (LED) is a technology that has been used in solid state lighting for many years now. More recently, LED technology has advanced to streetlight applications. LED streetlights are extremely energy efficient, have long life spans, and produce better color and light quality than typical High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights.

3. Why does the color of light from LED streetlights look different?

Contrary to the orange light that High Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures produce, LED streetlight fixtures emit a cooler, white light (similar to moonlight) under which it is easier to see true colors.

Although the new LED fixtures may appear to be dimmer from a distance, they actually are not dimmer than the traditional HPS fixtures we've recently replaced. Because HPS street lights can also cause glare for drivers and pedestrians, the City has replaced them with new LED fixtures which are more efficient and produce an even and direct disbursement of light in a rectangular pattern.

4. Why is the City of Belmont doing a LED streetlight conversion project?

The City is interested in reducing its energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and maintenance costs associated with street lighting. Installing LED streetlight fixtures will save energy, require less maintenance, and will provide citizens with better light quality on streets and roadways. Moreover, conversion to LED streetlights is consistent with the City Council priorities of implementing safe, clean and sustainable practices.

5. How many streetlights is the City replacing with the LED streetlight conversion project?

City staff and our lighting contractor have begun replacing all HPS street and City-owned parking lot lights with LED fixtures. Crews have begun work from the western portion of Belmont, and work their way down, toward Highway 101. The anticipated date of completion is late May to late June 2015.

There are three key projects involved with the lighting conversion:

1. Standard replacement of City-owned HPS lights with newer LED fixtures. This project will replace approximately 1,030 cobra head lights and is expected to be completed by late May 2015.
2. Replacement of HPS fixtures in several City parking lots with LED technology. This project involves the replacement of 79 lights in total, and will be completed by early June 2015.
3. Replacement of 146 lantern style fixtures. This project is expected to be completed by late June 2015.

6. *How is the City of Belmont paying for the LED streetlight conversion project?*

Funding for this project will come from on-bill financing at a zero-interest loan, combined with rebates from Pacific Gas & Electric. In addition, the City will utilize the energy savings resulting from the project to repay the loan over the next ten years.

7. *What are the benefits of the LED streetlight fixture project, and how much will the City likely save when it upgrades to LED streetlight fixtures?*

The bundled projects, once completed, will provide a variety of benefits to the City. Some of these key benefits include the following:

- ✓ Annual energy cost savings of approximately **\$50K**
- ✓ Annual energy savings **of 343,477 kWh/year**
- ✓ Annual carbon offset of approximately **179,000 lbs. of CO2** per year.
- ✓ Replacement and/or upgrade of important systems that have reached the end of their useful economic life
- ✓ Reduced maintenance costs
- ✓ Better visible light for the community
- ✓ Improved lighting for specific neighborhoods in response to resident's concerns

8. *What is the City doing with all of the streetlights it is removing?*

The existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights will be removed and disassembled by the City's project contractor, Cal-West Lighting. The various components will be recycled.

9. *When will the lights in my neighborhood be replaced with LED fixtures?*

Installation began in the northwest section of the City and will move eastward toward Highway 101, and will end in the southwestern section of the City. See project progress link for the overall Project Installation Map, Schedule and Daily Installation Maps. ([Maps Link](#))

10. *What if I have a streetlight outage in my neighborhood before the new LED fixtures are installed?*

If you are currently experiencing a streetlight outage, please report the problem description and location to the Public Works Department at 650-595-7425.

11. *Who is the contact for additional questions about the LED streetlight conversion project?*

For more information about the City's LED streetlight conversion project, please contact Public Works Department at 650-595-7425.